

Oxford English Dictionary | The definitive record of the English language

hardscape, *n.*

Pronunciation: ² Brit. /'hɑːdskeɪp/, U.S. /'hɑrd,skeɪp/

Frequency (in current use):

Origin: Formed within English, by compounding. **Etymons:** *HARD* *adj.*, *-SCAPE* *comb. form.*

Etymology: < *HARD* *adj.* + *-SCAPE* *comb. form.*

Originally *U.S.*

The constructed physical features of landscape design, such as paths, walls, structures, etc., as distinct from vegetation or water. Frequently *attributive*. Cf. *hard landscape* at *HARD* *adj.* 1*m.*

- 1972 *Los Angeles Times* 5 Mar. κ23/3 Far beyond just plant material, the landscape architect may be involved with all eye-level visual aspects—open space planning, hardscape design, walkways, [etc.].
- 1998 A. LOVEJOY *Naturalistic Gardening* iii. 50 Although traditional hardscape elements such as patios, trellises, walls, and fences may be present within these gardens, woody plants are treated as living architecture.
- 2013 *N.Y. Times* (National ed.) 25 July D5/1 Is it better to hire a landscape architect or a landscape designer?.. If it's mostly planting and hardscape, like walkways, patios and pergolas, a qualified landscape designer could be fine.